

Message Text

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PAGE 01 GUATEM 01369 091951Z

62

ACTION ARA-20

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 NSAE-00 NSCE-00 SSO-00

USIE-00 INRE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-10 L-03 NSC-07 PA-04

RSC-01 PRS-01 SPC-03 SS-20 AID-20 OMB-01 PC-04 OPR-02

DRC-01 /108 W

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O R 091930Z MAR 74

FM AMEMBASSY GUATEMALA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 2396

INFO CINCSO

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE GUATEMALA 1369

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINT, GT

SUBJECT: ELECTION REPORT NUMBER 31

1. MARCH 9 MORNING PRESS REPORTED THAT POLICE AGAIN DISPERSED SMALL CROWDS GATHERED IN DOWNTOWN AREA ON EVENING OF MARCH 8. NO INCIDENTS OF SERIOUS CONFRONTATION REPORTED, PRESS INDICATED THAT SMALL GROUPS OF DEMONSTRATORS GATHERED AND DISPERSED QUICKLY, IN APPARENT ATTEMPT TO RUN POLICE RAGGED. PRESS ALSO REPORTED THAT CONGRESS WILL BEGIN ITS COUNT OF MARCH 3 VOTE IMMEDIATELY, STARTING WITH UNPRECEDENTED SATURDAY SESSION.

2. IN PAID AD PUBLISHED IN PRESS, OPPOSITION FRONT OFFICIALLY INVITED PEOPLE TO ATTEND RALLY IN GUATEMALA CITY'S NEAR-DOWNTOWN PLAZA BARRIOS TO HEAR GENERAL RIOS MONTT AND OTHER FRONT LEADERS SPEAK. IMPACTO REPORTED THAT FRONT WOULD TRUCK IN DEMONSTRATORS FOR RALLY FROM RURAL AREAS.

3. AT 12:00 NOON MARCH 9 WE OBSERVED THAT REGULAR POLICE HAD DEPT PLAZA CLEAR BUT THAT CROWDS WHICH SEEMED TO CONSIST MAINLY OF CURIOUS ONLOOKERS WERE GATHERING ON STREETS LEADING INTO PLAZA. RIOT SQUAD ARRIVED AT 1205 AND QUICKLY DISPERSED THESE

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PAGE 02 GUATEM 01369 091951Z

CROWDS WITHOUT USE OF TEARGAS. AS OF 12:30 SMALL GROUPS CON-

SISTING MAINLY OF YOUNG MEN AND BOYS CONTINUED TO GATHER AND
THEN RUN AT FIRST APPEARANCE OF POLICE. MOST IN THESE GROUPS
WERE GIGGLING AND LAUGHING AND SEEMED MORE INTERESTED IN GIVING
POLICE A HARD TIME THAN IN CONDUCTING DEMONSTRATION. WE HAVE
SEEN NO FRONT LEADERS. THERE WERE SOME IN CROWDS WHO WERE CARRYING
ROCKS, SO MOOD OF CROWDS COULD CHANGE QUICKLY. WE WILL
REPORT FURTHER IF SERIOUS DISTURBANCES DEVELOP.
MELOY

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Message Attributes

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